

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Please cancel the originally-filed Abstract of the Disclosure, and add the accompanying new Abstract of the Disclosure which appears on a separate sheet in the Appendix.

Please add the following new heading beginning on page 1, line 1:

-- Background of the Invention --

Please add the following new heading after the paragraph ending on line 16 of page 2:

-- Summary of the Invention --

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 4, line 8, with the following rewritten paragraph:

-- The recesses may be less deep than the slits. The slit according to this embodiment combines a wide opening due to the slit with recess at the upper side of the distribution disc with a non-widened portion at the bottom of the slit. From the wide opening a stick can reliably be urged in the non-widened portion at the bottom of the slit, which non-widened portion places the sticks in a wanted position, such as a stable position having a defined orientation. --

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 4, line 16, with the following rewritten paragraph:

-- The recesses may have different shapes. The recesses may be bounded in upstream direction by an inclined edge portion. The inclined edge portion ensures a guidance of the sticks in the

direction of the bottom of the slit. In the recess according to this embodiment, a stick may end up rolling and/or sliding naturally along the inclined edge portion onto the bottom of the slits.--

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 4, line 23, with the following rewritten paragraph:

-- The inclined edge portion at the side of the recess facing away from the slit may at least almost connect to the upper side of the distribution disc. As a result the sticks are able to move continuously via the recess to the slit from the upper side of the distribution disc, which ensures a smooth course of the sticks towards the slits. -

Preferably the inclined edge portion at the side of the recess facing away from the slit at least almost connects to the upper side of the distribution disc. As a result the sticks are able to move continuously via the recess to the slit from the upper side of the distribution disc, which ensures a smooth course of the sticks towards the slits. - -

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 4, line 32, with the following rewritten paragraph:

-- In a hole at the circumference of the distribution disc the head of an article is accommodated and the stick of the article projects from the hole. For guiding the stick on its way to the bottom of the slit in such a way that the head remains in the hole, the inclined edge portion may also slope towards the

hole. Said embodiment results in an improvement of the smooth course of the sticks towards the slits. -

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 5, line 4, with the following rewritten paragraph:

-- A generating line of the inclined edge portion is oriented to the centre of the hole. The inclined edge portion ends in a hole. When an article is placed in the hole the stick will be oriented at least almost to the centre of the hole, just like the generating line according to this embodiment. The inclined edge portion will optimally guide and support the stick, when the stick of an object in the hole contacts the generating line. For instance the generating line at the location of the inclined edge portion may correspond to the at least almost straight line which is formed by the stick of an object lying in the hole. As a result the stick will be supported by the inclined edge portion over an as large as possible length, also during the run- in motion. -

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 5, line 16, with the following rewritten paragraph:

-- The generating line may comprise a convex curve, as considered from the upper side of the distribution disc. As a result the stick may be supported at one location as a result of which less friction occurs between the inclined edge portion and the stick, and the stick will move more easily in the direction of the bottom of the slit. -

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 5, line 22, with the following rewritten paragraph:

-- A cross-section of the inclined edge portion in a direction almost tangential to the distribution disc, may comprise a concave curve, as considered from the upper side of the distribution disc.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 6, line 7, with the following rewritten paragraph:

--The dimensioning of the slits and thus the distribution disc in this case is adjusted to the embodiment of the lollipops in question to be treated. The correct position of the slits among other things depends on the dimension of the distribution disc, including the dimensions of the holes and the slits, and the dimensions of the articles, including the dimensions of the heads and the sticks. The width of the slits near the bottom of the slits may be wider than the sticks of the lollipops to be treated. --

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 7, line 1, with the following rewritten paragraph:

--In this embodiment the slits are inclined and/or shifted with respect to the radial lines through the centre of the distribution disc and possibly the centres of the corresponding holes. The distance s and/or the angle P among other things depend on the dimension of the distribution disc, including the dimensions of the holes and the slits, and the dimensions of the

articles, including the dimensions of the heads and the sticks.
It is observed here that the distance s may be larger than zero.--

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Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 7, line 9,
with the following rewritten paragraph:

--The distance s and/or the angle β may be chosen such that the openings of the slits at the outer edge of the distribution disc are situated in a downstream direction with respect to an axial line of the distribution disc which runs through the centre of the corresponding holes.--

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 7, line 14,
with the following rewritten paragraph:

--It is observed that the said distance s and/or rotation P can also be advantageously used in a common distribution disc, without the slit edges that give way.--

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 8, line 4,
with the following rewritten paragraph:

--The inclined edge portion at the side of the recess facing away from the slit may at least almost connect to the upper side of the distribution disc.--

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 8, line 8,
with the following rewritten paragraph:

--The generating line of the inclined edge portion may be oriented to the centre of the hole.--

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 8, line 11, with the following rewritten paragraph:

--The generating line may comprise a convex curve, as considered from the upper side of the distribution disc.--

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 8, line 14, with the following rewritten paragraph:

--A cross-section of the inclined edge portion in a direction almost tangential to the distribution disc, may comprise a concave curve, as considered from the upper side of the distribution disc.--

Please add the following new heading beginning on page 8, line 17:

-- Brief Description of the Drawings --

Please add the following new heading beginning on page 8, line 31:

-- Description of the Preferred Embodiments --